

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I am writing this on January 3rd, since the Christmas and New Year's rush and festivities used up a lot of time and I could not get the various columns and messages completed. However, better late than never and it fit the pattern for 2007, where I think I managed to get every issue out late. Many apologies for that and of course, one of my New Year's resolutions is to try and do better in 2008. With editing the Biophilately and Philatelic Aurelian journals and trying to keep up with acting as an Exhibit Chairman as well seems to eat up a lot of time.

This issue once again is short of a couple of columns, as the Associate Editors and writers also have problems on occasion and also like to go on trips for birding and other interesting ways to occupy ones time. In addition, as Fran has noted in her President's message, some subjects seem to wane in popularity while others are surging. I often wonder if the companies that print postage stamps for use around the world keep track of these things and compile demographic charts. An interesting thought.

The NTSS – 2008 show is now just about six months away and I have already received a number of exhibits for the show, one of them being a single frame with the title "The Rainbow Trout", one of "our" subjects. I hope there will be a few more to compete for the "Best in Biology" award that we have available at all the NTSS shows.

I was in attendance at an interesting presentation at one of our local stamp clubs last night. The subject was "The One-page Exhibit", which is being used by a number of clubs in the Greater Toronto area to encourage people to start exhibiting. The criteria are very simple. There must be at least three different "philatelic elements" in the exhibit; it must tell a story of some kind and the subject should not be one which could be expanded into multiple frames. We have run competitions on this basis at several stamp shows here in Toronto and it seems to be very popular. If you are interested in starting to exhibit, this is a good way to get your feet wet and also get other members of your nearest stamp club to get into the spirit of competition.

Here in southern Ontario, we are experiencing the worst Winter for snow that we have had since the 1970's, with snow banks at the side of the road almost getting to the height of an ordinary car! I can remember this well from when we first moved up to Aurora, but the shoveling was a heck of a lot easier then! I think I shall have to employ the services of a snow plowing company next year if we get another bad one. One of the penalties of "not getting any younger", although it is quite a pleasant way to spend some time when the snow is not too deep and the sun is shining. The birds that stayed behind are having a bit of a thin time unless people feed them!

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

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